

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANILA 02532 150517Z

ACTION EA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 2532

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, RP

SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS: REGISTRATION OF CANDIDATES

REF: A) MANILA 2402, B) MANILA 2446

1. SUMMARY. AS OF FEBRUARY 14, TEN POLITICAL PARTIES HAD REGISTERED WITH COMELECT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS. ALL WOULD APPEAR TO BE EITHER PRO-MARCOS OR PSEUDO-OPPOSITIONIST. THE REAL OPPOSITION, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO ANNOUNCE SHORTLY A METRO MANILA TICKET LED BY BENIGNO AQUINO, HAS NOT YET REGISTERED WITH COMELEC. THERE ARE NOW INCREASING SIGNS THAT MRS. MARCOS MAY RUN. END SUMMARY.

2. POLITICAL PARTIES. THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS HAS ANNOUNCED THAT TEN PARTIES HAVE REGISTERED FOR THE LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS SO FAR. THEY ARE:

-KILUSANG BAGONG LIPUNAN (KBL), THE OFFICIAL PRO-MARCOS ALLIANCE, WHICH WILL FIELD CANDIDATES NATIONWIDE.

-USION BISAYA. A CEBU-BASED PSEUDO-OPPOSITION GROUP, PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS THE YOUNG TURKS, WHICH PLANS TO FIELD CANDIDATES IN REGION VII (CENTRAL VISAYAS).

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MANILA 02532 150517Z

-CONFEDERATION OF ILOCANO ASSOCIATIONS, INC. THE PRESS HAS DESCRIBED THIS AS A GROUP OF INDEPENDENTS, NOMINALLY HEADED BY THE PRESIDENT'S SON BONG BONG, WHICH PLANS TO FIELD CANDIDATES IN FOUR LUZON REGIONS. MOST LIKELY ORGANIZED BY MALACANANG TO ENSURE PARTICIPATION BY MORE THAN ONE PARTY IN

ILOCOS, WHERE MARCOS' STRENGTH IS LIKELY TO SCARE OFF ANY GENUINE OPPOSITIONISTS.

-MINDANAO ALLIANCE. A PSEUDO-OPPOSITION GROUP HEADED BY ATTORNEY HOMOBONO ADAZA (SEE ADAZA/ ELLSON MEMCON OF JANUARY 26). REPORTEDLY WILL FIELD CANDIDATES THROUGHOUT MINDANAO, I.E., IN REGIONS IX, X, XI, AND XII.

-YOUNG PHILIPPINES. A REGIONAL PARTY HEADED BY FORMER GOVERNOR OF CAMARINES NORTE, WENCESLAO VINZONS JR., WHICH HAS ANNOUNCED INTENTIAON OF FIELD-ING FULL SLATE OF CANDIDATES IN REGION VI.

-BICOS-SARO. ANOTHER REGION V PARTY, THIS ONE HEADED BY FORMER NAGA CITY MAYOR MONICO IMPERIAL.

-PARTIDO NG BAGONG PILIPINO. NO DETAILS AVAIL-ABLE YET.

-LAPIANG BAGONG SILANG. HEADED BY CIRILO BRAVO. NO ADDITIONAL DETAILS AVAILABLE YET.

-PARTIDO DEMOCRATA. HEADED BY JOSE AMADORA. NO ADDITIONAL DETAILS AVAILABLE YET.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MANILA 02532 150517Z

-YOUTH DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT. REPORTEDLY AN ALLIANCE OF STUDENT YOUTH LEADERS, COLLEGE EDITORS, AND YOUNG PROFESSIONALS, HEADED BY JOSE BURGOS, JR. WILL FIELD CANDIDATES IN METRO MANILA.

3. THUS FAR, ALL PARTIES EXCEPT THE OPENLY PRO-MARCOS KBL APPEAR TO BE PSEUDO-OPPOSITION GROUPS ORGANIZED BY LOCAL POLITICANS HOPING TO EVENTUALLY BE INCLUDED IN THE KBL TICKET OR ENCOURAGED BY MALACANANG TO PROVIDE TAME OPPOSITION FOR THE KBL OUTSIDE MANILA SO THAT THE CONTEST THERE WILL NOT BE COMPLETELY ONE-SIDED.

4. THE LEGITIMATE OPPOSITION. THE REAL OPPOSITION, WHICH NOW SEEMS INTENT ON ORGANIZING METRO MANILA SLATE HEADED BY BENIGNO AQUINO (REF A), STILL HAS NOT REGISTERED WITH COMELEC. SENATOR TANADA, WHO WILL LIKELY SERVE AS HONORARY CAMPAIGN CHAIRMAN OF METRO MANILA OPPOSITION ALLIANCE, TOLD REPORTERS THAT THE SLATE WILL BE ANNOUNCED FEBRUARY 14 OR 15. THE MANIL PRESS REPORTED THE OPPOSITION LIST WILL INCLUDE FORMER SENATOR RAMON MITRA, NEPALI GONZALES, ALEJANDRO ROCES, S.P. LOPEZ, ROBERTO CONCEPCION, AND CHARITO PLANAS. (COMMENT: THIS IS CONSISTENT

WITH INFORMATION WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM A NUMBER OF OPPOSITION SOURCES.)

5. INDEPENDENTS. COMELEC CHAIRMAN PEREZ ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT 18 INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES HAVE FILED CERTIFICATES OF CANDIDACY IN METRO MANILA.

6. MRS. MARCOS. DAILY EXPRESS COLUMNIST VALENCIA WROTE FEBRUARY 14 THAT "IN SPITE OF THE STOUT REFUSAL OF MRS. MARCOS TO RUN, SHE MAY BE COMPELLED TO DO JUST THAT. THE PRESSURE FROM THE CANDIDATES OF THE KILUSANG BAGONG LIPUNAN IS BECOMING OVERWHELMING. THEN, TOO, THE RECENT CHANGE OF HEART OF SOME OPPOSITION PEOPLE HAS HEIGHTENED THE DEMANDS OF THE KILUSAN CANDIDATES FOR MRS. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 MANILA 02532 150517Z

MARCOS TO LEAD THE METRO MANILA TICKET." THE MANILA PRESS OF FEBRUARY 15 DESCRIBED THE DRAFT MRS. MARCOS MOVEMENT AS "SNOWBALLING." THE PRESS REPORTED THAT A GROUP OF BARANGAY LEADERS FROM TONDO SENT A PETITION TO THE KBL HEADQUARTERS IN WHICH THEY ARGUED THAT THE INTERIM BATASANG PAMBANSA "CANNOT AFFORD TO MISS THE VAST EXPERIENCE OF MRS. MARCOS IN UPLIFTING THE LIFE OF THE POOR)))" DURING A CALL ON INFORMATION SECRETARY TATAD FEBRUARY 15, AMBASSADOR NOTED FOREGOING PRESS ACCOUNTS. TATAD COMMENTED THAT MRS. MARCOS PROBABLY WILL RUN, "BUT THIS IS NOT THE WAY TO DO IT." NEWSOM

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